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of their hair, which were cut off by the swords, and blown towards us by the wind, so that we were all the time engaged in disentangling our arms. And it was wonderful that those who were in the battle could endure such horror without becoming distracted. And they fought from sunrise until the dusk of the evening, when the full tide carried the ships away."

JOHN O'DONOVAN.

SMALL FEET OF THE CHINESE WOMEN.

One of the many strange things which attract the attention of a foreigner in China is the small feet of the females, or rather I should say their deformed lower extremities, for their feet would be like those of other nations, if they were not, shortly after birth, put into metal boots or socks, which are kept on to prevent their growth, and under this cruel torture, although in an earlier stage of life, as many fall a sacrifice as in our own country to tight lacing of the waist. The extremities thus treated lose all resemblance of a human foot, although something like a shoe is put on it. The writer brought one home with him which would fit a foot nearly four inches long, and this is the shoe of an adult. Similar ones may be seen in the Dublin Society House. Their ancles become like those of some of our dear country-women, who have the good taste to conceal them with long petticoats, but the Chinese ladies cannot walk so well as they do, and can only be said to hobble along; as a man does who goes on two wooden legs. All the Chinese women undergo this process, except that class which correspond in rank with our basket women, and those who live almost entirely in boats on the lakes and rivers; together with the Tartar females who belong to the highest class of society, and have not yet adopted this custom of the people whom they have conquered.

The writer asked an intelligent Chinese what was the reason for this practice, to which he replied, that it was for the purpose of making them stay at home, just as we would talk of clipping the tails and wings of our domestic poultry for the same object—and perhaps we could not give as satisfactory an answer in defence of some of our own customs, for instance, how could we defend to a Chinese the practice of putting flour on the heads of our lawyers and judges, instead of making bread of it, as he would do; or the tight lacing of our ladies' waists, in defiance of health and beauty, attempting to improve the shape of the human form divine, "as if one of nature's journeymen had made them—badly." Or how defend the preposterous custom of removing from the chins of one sex, that which distinguishes their face from the other, as if they were ashamed of their manhood. In short we may class together the small feet of the Chinese, the hair-powdered shaved European, with all his pretensions to civilization, his spider-waisted wife, the flat nosed inhabitant of New Zealand, and the tattooed North American Indian with a feather in his nose, as specimens of absurdity capable of no rational defence. The Chinese females, unlike those of most other Eastern nations, are not closely confined to the house, but are permitted to hobble about with the assistance of a stick; the state of their feet, however, prevents them from gadding much about. F.

SALT.

This most useful substance is found in various parts of the Globe, especially in Poland, Hungary, Spain, and England. In the province of Valencia in Spain, there is a mountain of salt, called Cardona, five hundred feet high, and nearly three miles in circumference. The salt mines near Cracow in Poland, which have been worked ever since the middle of the thirteenth century, are computed still to contain salt enough to supply the world many thousand years.

The principal repository of salt is the ocean, whence, in general, we are supplied with this useful article, which is separated from the salt-water by evaporation.

The following is a brief account of the mode of evaporating sea-water, for the production of salt, in different countries:

In the South of France large trenches are cut near the sea, which fill with sea-water at high tide; the water being confined in these by flood-gates, the sun evaporates it,

and the salt remains in the trenches, whence it is laid up to dry for use.

On the coast of Syria, the rocks on the shore have been excavated into salt-pans, two or three yards long: these being filled with sea-water, the aqueous part evaporates, and a large quantity of salt gradually forms at the bottom.

At some places in Cheshire, they saturate the brine with rock-salt, previous to its being evaporated in boilers. One hundred tons of this saturated solution produces about twenty-three tons of salt.

In the Landgrave of Thuringia, a new method has been adopted in the manufacture of salt. A number of wooden vessels are placed firm on posts, six feet from the ground, which may be covered or uncovered in an instant by a moveable roof, according as the weather is dry or rainy: these vessels being filled with sea-water, the process of evaporation takes place merely by the heat of the sun. Salt thus produced, is much purer than that procured by evaporation in boilers. Indeed the salt of commerce is always impure: there are generally combined with it portions of earthy salts and other adventitious substances. The Cheshire salt is of much greater purity than any of the several kinds imported from France and elsewhere.

To dilate on the various uses of this most indispensable substance, is quite needless, as there are few persons to whom the almost general use of it in our manufactures, domestic processes, &c. is unknown, still there are some purposes to which it might be applied more generally than it commonly is, especially in agriculture, in which, as an article of manure, it is of invaluable efficacy. However, by a superabundant use, it may produce a contrary effect, and actually render land sterile. In pasture land, no more than from one to six bushels per acre ought ever be used.

The inhabitants of the coasts of Hindostan and China sprinkle their rice fields with sea-water, using no other manure: in the interior of these countries, they sprinkle the land with salt before it is tilled; and this practice has been followed for ages with the most beneficial results.

In the feeding of cattle, salt is very advantageous; horses are very fond of it; and cows universally give more milk when supplied with it. There are some persons in the city, who, during the summer months, avail themselves of the advantage of feeding cows with grains preserved with salt; and these cows never fail of continuing to give milk in the greatest abundance, whilst supplied with such food. Dr. Mitchell relates, that in the back settlements of America, wherever salt abounds, the wild beasts of the forests assemble to regale themselves; and these places (called by the natives Licks) are so much frequented by them, that the ground is actually trodden to mud.

Another very useful purpose to which salt is applied, is the glazing of stone-ware. This mode of glazing was first introduced from Holland into England in 1700, since which time it has been used in these countries with invariable success. The wholesomeness of this glaze, in articles intended for domestic purposes, is so obvious that it needs no comment. M. O'K.

POTATOES.

GERARD, an old herbalist, thus speaks of them, in 1597. "Potatoes grow in India, and other hotter regions; of which I planted divers roots, (that I bought at the Exchange in London) in my garden, where they flourished until winter, at which time they perished and rotted." Speaking of the mode of cooking this exotic he says, "They were roasted in the ashes; and some when they be so roasted, infuse them and sop them in wine; and others, to give them the greater grace in eating, do boil them with prunes, and so eat them. And likewise others dresse them (being first roasted) with oil, vinegar, and salt, and every man according to his taste and liking." It was little imagined then that they would become so valued an article in the British dominions, and latterly on the continent of Europe.

DUBLIN:

Printed and Published by JOHN S. FOLDS, 56, Great Strand-street; Sold by all Booksellers in Ireland.
In Liverpool by Willmer and Smith; in Manchester by Wheeler; in Birmingham by Jenkinson; in Edinburgh by R. Grant and Son; and in Glasgow by Niven, Jun.